Tate Dumped by Party In Philadelphia Race

PHILADELPHIA, March 11 (AP) —The Democratic Policy Committee today dumped Mayor James Tate and slated former City Controller Alexander Hemphill as the organization's nominee for Mayor in the May primary election.

The choice climaxed a continuing fight between Francis Smith, chairman of the Democratic City Committee, and Tate, who has filed for a second 4-year term and declared he will run and win either with or without organization backing.

Smith came out of the third Policy Committee meeting within a week to announce the selection of Hemphill, who resigned in January as City Controller to seek the mayoralty nomination.

Smith said the vote was "nearly unanimous," that only four or five supported Tate. He said that when a motion was made to give Hemphill unanimous backing, "only two were opposed." He identified the two as U.S. Rep. William A. Barrett, and Wendell Young, president of the Retail Clerks Union.

Barrett, however, said there was a third dissenter, identifying him as Michael Byrne, representing U.S. Sen. Joseph S. Clark on the Policy Committee. Byrne's action pointed up the cleavage in Democratic ranks as the Party prepared to defend its 12-year hold on city government against the challenge of Republican Arlen Specter.

The 37-year-old Specter, the city's District Attorney, is unopposed for the GOP nomination. He was an associate counsel for the Warren Committee in its investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. He was a Democrat, but switched parties two years ago to win the District Attorney's office.